



Season's Greenings! waste less this holiday season

at work

■ Use Reusables

Enjoy your cocoa, coffee or tea in a reusable mug, and replace all lunchtime disposables including plates and utensils with those that are reusable. Reusable mugs also make a great holiday gift for the coffee lover in your life!

■ Save Postage and the Environment

Consider sending your holiday well wishes to customers, colleagues and friends via email. Many websites offer free animated holiday e-cards. You will reduce your costs and carbon footprint while sending warm wishes and cheer someone's way. If holiday cards are a must, purchase only those made from recycled materials.

■ Be Creatively Festive

Spice up your work station without using lights or disposable decorations. Consider festive wallpaper on your computer's desktop, or a potted holiday tree. In addition to providing decoration, live plants in workspaces have been shown to reduce stress!

make a difference

switch & save

Save energy and money by making the switch to LED holiday lights. They are 90% more efficient than their incandescent counterparts, last up to 100,000 hours, and stay much cooler than traditional bulbs, making them a safer option too!

According to the Alliance to Save Energy, a household burning 10 strands of lights for eight hours a day for a month at \$0.0853 per kilowatt-hour would spend \$127.67 for large, incandescent bulbs, \$7.20 for traditional mini-lights, and just \$0.72 for LEDs.

<http://ase.org/content/news/detail/2737>

West Valley Collection & Recycling will pick up your holiday tree, December 28 through January 15 as a part of regular collection. Up to two holiday trees per residence may be recycled. Trees must be undecorated, natural or flocked and cut into 5 foot lengths. Visit <http://westvalleyrecycles.com> for more information.

recycle

at home

■ Continue the Cycle: Reuse & Recycle

If purchasing wrapping paper, bows, and holiday cards, be sure to buy only those made with recycled materials, and reuse and recycle those which you receive. It is estimated that Americans send more than 2 billion holiday cards, use more than 38,000 miles of ribbon, and wrap with more than 8,000 tons of wrapping paper during the Holiday Season!

■ Have A Zero-Waste Holiday Party

It's time to get creative and think beyond the paper plates. When planning your holiday party, try to eliminate the waste produced by the event. Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- ◆ Use reusable dishes and utensils. After the event, use the dishwasher to clean them.
- ◆ Serve beverages that come in large recyclable containers.
- ◆ Turn down the heat, a room full of people is a great way to heat a room naturally. Or, make it a holiday sweater party and ask friends to wear their favorite holiday sweater...festive and warm!
- ◆ Have a holiday plate swap. Ask guest to bring a decorated holiday plate to trade, and then on their way out, guests can fill their plate with leftovers, so no food goes to waste.

learn more

Learn more about the Town's green efforts at:
www.LosGatosCA.gov/Green

Find more information and ideas on zero waste events and sustainable holidays at:

<http://earth911.com/>

<http://www.ecocycle.org/>

<http://www.sustainabletable.org/features/articles/sustainableholidays/>

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